



**First Year Seminar SRSU 1101 005
(CRN 11821)
Fall 2022
August 22-December 7, 2022**



Instructor:

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Mission:

The mission of First-Year Seminar is to provide first-year students an opportunity to (1) experience and develop knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes that promote successful college study and positive campus participation, and to (2) appreciate multiple perspectives that reflect intellectual and cultural diversity within and beyond college.

Course Description:

First-Year Seminar is designed to help students develop strategies and skills necessary for a successful college career. Topics include adjusting to college, setting academic goals, managing time and keeping organized, learning and studying in college, preparing for and taking tests, understanding college policies and regulations, and accessing and using SRSU computer technology. Students will learn about SRSU's resources, activities, and rich cultural diversity. Throughout the course, students will use critical thinking skills to make informed choices, to understand their responsibilities for academic success, and to become independent, motivated learners.

All First-Year Seminars have five common goals. The student will be able to:

1. expand and deepen his/her understanding of the world and of self;
2. enhance his/her ability to read and think critically;
3. enhance his/her ability to communicate effectively, in writing, speech, and other appropriate forms;
4. develop the fundamentals of information literacy and library research; and
5. work closely with the class professor.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Implement personal time management strategies based on short- and long-term goals.
2. Describe behaviors that support personal responsibility for learning, characteristics of an effective learner, techniques that promote student success and problem-solving of academic issues, and be able to discuss respect, civility, and academic integrity at SRSU.
1. Describe institution, department, and course requirements to earn a college degree and be able to identify SRSU policies in relation to them.
2. Identify and/or utilize college resources, activities, and events and demonstrate use of SRSU technology: student e-mail, SRSU website, Blackboard (Bb), and Lobo Online.
3. Exhibit financial literacy in relation to college and beyond.
4. Discuss the importance of SRSU in the larger community.

Attendance & Class Participation:

Your attendance and participation in this course are reflected in your grade. Please be proactive in informing the professor of any expected absences **in advance** in order to meet class requirements. All unexcused absences will negatively affect your final grade. You are expected to communicate with the professor **in person** regarding any unexcused absences. The professors **will drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences.** An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class; for example, non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences, and non-attendance in a three-hour class will constitute three absences. An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized absence. Any student dropped for excessive absences will receive an "F," "FO," or "FX" in the course depending on the circumstances **which will negatively impact your financial aid.**

A high degree of engagement is expected and will contribute to your learning as an active participant. This includes interacting with the guest presenters and other students and being prepared to participate in class discussions. This class is the

beginning of your journey to becoming a professional. Evidence of professionalism includes attendance, collegial attitude, participation, and punctuality.

Classroom Behaviors:

You are encouraged and expected to openly engage in class discussions, ask questions, share ideas, and express your thoughts. Please be respectful of others by avoiding disruptive behaviors such as side conversations, cell phone use, arriving late, leaving early, etc. Please provide your classmates and the professor the professional courtesy of arriving on time for the beginning of class and staying for the full duration of every class. Cell phones are permitted in class; however, **phones must be placed in silent mode or turned off completely. No texting is allowed during class.**

Academic Honesty

"The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials."

--Excerpt from the Student Handbook

Alpine Disability Statement:

SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email mschwartz@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

SRSU Library Services:

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the

library's website at the following link: [SRSU Library & Archives – THE FRONTIER UNIVERSITY of Texas \(sulross.edu\)](https://sulross.edu). Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

Late Work:

Late work is NOT accepted. All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless the professor states otherwise. No consideration of extending a due date will be considered on the day an assignment is due as students should contact the professor in advance if they are expecting to be unable to meet a deadline. Should the professor decide to accept a major assignment late, then a significant penalty will be assigned depending upon the circumstances.

Grade Breakdown

Course Assignment	Due Date	Available Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Attendance	11:59pm CST on Sundays Week 8 due 11:59pm CST on Friday, October 14	150	30%
Participation in 4 Different SRSU Activities	11:59pm CST on October 9	80	30%
Reflection on Participation Paper	11:59pm CST on October 9	100	10%
Discussion Boards (DB) in Bb	11:59pm CST on the Sunday specified	80	10%
Service-Learning Group Project & Presentation	11:59pm CST on Sunday, October 2	100	20%
	Totals		100%

Please note that any assignment not submitted by the deadline **will receive a zero (NOT an automatic 50)** as per some secondary schools).

Grading Scale:

90-100=A

80-89 =B

70-79 =C

60-69 =D

Below 60=F

Required Textbook:

No required textbook

Required: Blackboard (Bb) access and a Sul Ross email address

Please learn your A# as soon as possible.

Description of Course Assignments

Module 1: Attendance

In order for you to receive full credit for attendance, you must: **1. sign the roster** each class meeting; and **2. record your attendance in Blackboard (Bb)** for the week before 11:59pm CST on Sunday of the same week. You will select "Write Submission" under the "Text Submission" heading, enter 10 if you attended class or were participating in an approved university event, and select "Submit." You will enter 0 if you did not attend class on the given date. For example, to receive full credit for attendance during Week One, you will need to sign the class roster both on Monday, August 22, and on Wednesday, August 24. You will also need to record your attendance of the two class meetings in Blackboard (Bb) before 11:59pm CST on Sunday, August 28.

Module 2: Participation

You will choose at least 4 **different** SRSU activities to attend/participate in from the following choices: an athletic event, a rodeo event, Taco Tuesday with the University Police Department (UPD), an intramural event, a club sport meeting/event, a Campus Activities sponsored event, a student organization/club meeting, an organized residence hall program, Big Bend Community Chorale Meet & Greet or rehearsal, a concert, a play,

activity sponsored by one of the student ministries, or a tour of the museum. Any other activity must be approved by the professor **in advance**. You must secure some form of proof of attendance for each of the 4 different activities (e.g., a ticket, event program, a signature from one of the organizers, etc.).

Module 3: Reflection on Participation Paper

After attending/participating in at least 4 **different** SRSU activities listed above, you will write a two-paragraph reflection on the activities. One paragraph should identify the 4 different activities you attended/participated in. In the same paragraph, you will choose one of the four activities and give a thorough description of the event including: date of participation, name of event, place of event, any cost involved, description of what the event was, and about how many people were in attendance. The second paragraph should reflect what you thought about the event and whether you would attend/participate in the event again; therefore, you may use first person point of view/perspective (i.e., I, me, my, our, etc.) for the second paragraph.

Writing Requirements

APA writing format (seventh edition) is required. Assignments must be typed using one-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font, and double space throughout (i.e., no extra space between paragraphs). Number all pages beginning with the first page in the upper right-hand corner (i.e., use a header), and edit the paper for spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Do **not** use contractions (e.g., should've, could've, would've, etc.). Informal writing should be avoided (i.e., using everyday phrases such as "the back burner" or "super busy"). Your writing is a reflection of your professional growth.

Discussion Boards (DB) in Blackboard (Bb):

There will be 4 required Discussion Boards (DB) in Blackboard (Bb) to complete during the course. In order to become more familiar with Bb, some DB will require you to "post first" while others will allow you to see any prior posts before submitting your thread.

Service-Learning Group Project & Class Presentation:

Each of you are required to complete 5 hours of volunteer work (preferably together). The professor understands that it may be challenging to complete the experience together due to individual schedules. Each of you must get a verification statement and

signature from the agency confirming that you did complete 5 hours of volunteer work. Together, you will create an oral presentation which should explain what type of volunteering you did/what you did specifically, where it took place, and why you chose the volunteer work that you did. Additionally, each group member should participate/speak during the oral presentation and should share what you thought about the experience and whether you are interested in continuing to volunteer in this area. A list of approved volunteer opportunities will be given out during class and discussed. Any other volunteer opportunity must be approved by the professor **prior to** participating in the volunteer hours.

The group will deliver a professional presentation to the class using some type of a graphic organizer (e.g., posters, PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.). Your presentation should be 10-15 minutes in length. A group presentation rubric will be provided.

Intended Weekly Schedule:

Mondays & Wednesdays, 10am to 10:50am CST

Meeting Number/Date

1: 8/22—**Welcome to the Lobo Family!** Introduction to the course, discussion of the syllabus, college culture & the Wellness Wheel, student responsibilities, faculty expectations, mySRSU, SRSU email, Office 365, brief Blackboard (Bb) introduction, course announcements via Bb

2: 8/24—**MEET IN THE LOBBY AREA OF THE GRAVES-PIERCE CENTER (GPC)**

(Kara Poole) Tour of the GPC, recreational opportunities, intramurals, club sports, fitness classes,

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3: 8/26—(1st Sergeant Omar Madrid) Role of the University Police Department (UPD), safety tips, escort service, C.R.A.S.E. video, Taco Tuesdays

4: 8/31—MEET IN THE LOBBY OF THE BRYAN WILDENTHAL MEMORIAL LIBRARY
(WML)

(Betsy Evans) Introduction and tour of the library/Escape Game

5: 9/5—Labor Day/No Classes

6: 9/7—(Santiago Garcia & Anthony Quintana) Discussion of the Baptist Student Ministry (BSM), the Newman Club, and the Wesley Center

7: 9/12—(Mary Schwartze Grisham) Mental health discussion, accommodations requests, stress management, campus and community resources, National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255 or 988, SRSU Counseling & Accessibility Services 432-837-8203

8: 9/14—(Candes Ramon & Isaac Pizarro) Student organizations, campus activities, SRSU traditions

9: 9/19—TENTATIVE (Natalie Sandoval) Financial aid, scholarships, creating a budget

10: 9/21—TENTATIVE (Judith Loya) Lobo Den Advising & Tutoring, degree plans, note-taking, study skills, time management

11: 9/26—TENTATIVE (Katy Williams) Civic engagement & student assistance, food pantry, clothes closet

12: 9/28—TENTATIVE Teambuilding activity

13: 10/3—Group presentations

14: 10/5—Group presentations

15: 10/10—Additional time for group presentations if needed; alternative programming to be announced

16: 10/12—**TENTATIVE: MEET AT THE MAIN/UPSTAIRS ENTRANCE TO THE PETE P. GALLEGGO CENTER (PPGC)**

[Academic Calendar – SUL ROSS](#)

[Event Calendar – SUL ROSS](#)

24-Hour National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 988

If you are a student, faculty, or staff of SRSU and you are in crisis (mental health), you should contact one of the following numbers: local emergency at 9-1-1, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 800-273-8255, SRSU police department (432-837-8101), or the local community mental health agency (PermiaCare, if in or around Alpine, at 432-837-3373). If you are a student in on-campus housing, you may also

contact your Resident Assistant (RA), call the Residential Life office at 432-837-8190 or after hours call the on-call phone (432-294-0464), so that they can help you.